

ROBERT W. "BOBBY" HARRELL,
SPEAKER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary South Carolinian by congratulating the Honorable Robert W. "Bobby" Harrell, Jr. of Charleston on his recent election to Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives.

Bobby Harrell was first elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1992 and quickly earned the respect of his fellow members. Bobby is a man of diligence, integrity, and ability. In 1994, he was appointed to the Ways and Means Committee, where he served as chairman of the Economic Development Subcommittee and the Public Education Subcommittee. He was elected chairman of the full committee in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, Bobby Harrell has always been a steadfast advocate for tax relief, educational opportunities, and economic development. As he begins his tenure as Speaker, I know he will continue to strive to assist all South Carolinians.

Bobby has excelled in every endeavor he has pursued, and his private life is no exception. He is a devoted family man with deep convictions. Bobby is married to Cathy Smith Harrell and is the proud father of two fine children, Trey and Charlotte. He and his family are members of the First Baptist Church of Charleston, where Bobby served as a deacon for many years. He is a successful entrepreneur, recently celebrating a quarter of a century operating a State Farm Insurance Agency and Oak Haven of Charleston, an assisted-living community. Additionally, Bobby has served as a leader in many national, State, and local civic and business organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Bobby Harrell is a good friend and I am proud to have the Speaker of the South Carolina House as a constituent. I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to join me in congratulating him on his recent election to Speaker and wishing him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

**COMMENDING THE CONTINUING
IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA**

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the United States Congress will welcome His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.

His visit to the United States, and to this House in particular, is a symbol of the strong and vibrant relations between our two nations, the oldest and largest democracies on earth.

But the relationship between the United States and India is more than symbolic.

It is the natural alliance between democratic nations who value freedom, and will defend their people from tyranny and terror.

Since the Indian people achieved their independence from the British crown in 1947, their nation has become an example of political freedom and stability in a region that desperately needs it.

India's economy has become a global leader in trade, science, and health, and its education system annually produces some of the brightest and most innovative minds in the world.

India has become a valued trading partner with the United States, and a trusted ally in the global war on terror.

Internationally, the Indian people—together with Pakistan—in recent years have sought peaceful solutions to their differences, setting aside decades of open hostility.

And here at home, Indian-Americans have enriched our national culture by introducing generations of Americans to the philosophical, religious, and social traditions of their homeland.

My own district in the Houston region is home to tens of thousands of Indian-Americans, who have become an indelible part of our community in recent decades, a fact for which I and my fellow Texans are most grateful.

I am proud to sponsor this resolution commending Prime Minister Singh and his nation, and welcoming him to address the House and Senate tomorrow.

**TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT R.
MANNINGS**

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the lifelong service of Mr. Robert R. Mannings. Serving in the armed service during the Korean War, Mannings selflessly devoted his life to his country and was honorably discharged in 1953. Thereafter, Mr. Mannings began his exemplary career in Philadelphia in 1958 as an employee of both North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company and Yellow Cab Company. Subsequently, he joined the Iron Workers Local 401 and served as a journeyman worker until his retirement in 1992.

As the president of the Dewey and Race Street Civic Organization for over 20 years, he improved the quality of his Philadelphia community and consequently was awarded the Philadelphia Most Beautiful Block award. Mannings' civic engagement extends to countless organizations including his active membership in the West Philadelphia New Life Development Association and the Mount Carmel Baptist Church for over 38 years.

A survivor of two bouts of severe cancer, Mannings' loyalty to the American Cancer Society compelled him to create an educational video portraying the success of cancer survivors. This video is widely shown at medical conventions, in physician offices and seminars.

Robert Mannings' devotion to his community never distracted him from his role as a loving husband to Frances E. Thomas, father of two

children, grandfather of five, and great grandfather of seven. In recognition of Mr. Robert R. Mannings' years of service to the city of Philadelphia, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to congratulate him on his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 19, 2005, I was unavoidably detained and therefore absent for rollcall vote 384, on agreeing to House Resolution 365. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 384.

**SOUTH CAUCASUS OPEN RAIL
LINK ACT**

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, United States foreign policy toward the South Caucasus nations is one of fostering regional stability and enhanced cooperation. I rise today to bring attention to the great injustice in relations in this region.

I speak today to stress my opposition and to move forward with legislation contesting the proposed railroad connecting Tbilisi, Georgia and Kars, Turkey. The proposed railroad would systematically bypass Armenia, and push them further into isolation.

As we all know, Turkey and Armenia have their differences. Although it is counterproductive to list those differences, instead I want to highlight the fact that it goes against United States policy to be in a position that further advances the turmoil in this region. The proposed legislation would bar U.S. support and funding for a rail link connecting Georgia and Turkey, but which directly averts Armenia.

Eight years ago, the former Turkish president and the former Georgian president meant to discuss the railroad that would "open a third frontier crossing between the two countries," providing further commerce and economic opportunity for the South Caucasus region. Both countries would benefit immensely from this railroad.

While I will always support commerce-based proposals that spawn economic development around the world, this proposal initiates commerce at the cost of another country's economic development. This is unacceptable.

This railroad would cost between \$400–\$800 million to construct, while a perfectly workable and capable rail link already exists. It is evident to all that this new rail system is being proposed for the specific reason of diverting commerce around Armenia.

The construction of the proposed railroad would be equivalent to the people of Ohio building a new bridge to Canada just to avoid traveling through Michigan. The United States government would never condone this action, and we should not be in the practice of condoning the actions set forth by the Turkish government.